

about an elevatable support axis to provide an adjustable angle of the elevatable support; and

a lift action control mechanism mounted on the stationary frame cooperates with the elevatable support member to modulate movement of the elevatable support about the elevatable support axis;

characterized in that:

a drive is co-axially arranged with the elevatable support about the elevatable support axis; the drive is adapted for connection with the moveable frame, so that the drive may slidably move the moveable frame onto and off of the elevatable support and the stationary frame, while the lift action control mechanism permits the angle of the elevatable support to adapt about the elevatable support axis so that the elevatable support slidably engages the movable frame.

19. (Amended) The loading apparatus of claim 18, wherein;

the locking system further comprises a sensing plate locking arm adapted to contact the movable shoe arm to lock the movable shoe arm into position to keep the flexible connector in engagement with the drive; and

the sensing plate locking arm is movable by the movement of the movable frame, when driven by the drive, to displace the sensing plate locking arm to release the

Q2 movable shoe arm so that the movable shoe arm may be displaced by the movable frame to release the flexible connector from the drive.

29. (Amended) The loading apparatus of any one of claims 18 through 20, for mounting the movable frame on the stationary frame comprising:

Q3 a) an elevatable support member mounted on the stationary frame, the elevatable support member having a first end portion and a second end portion, the second end portion of the elevatable support being mounted to the stationary frame for pivotal movement with respect to the stationary frame about an elevatable support axis to provide an adjustable angle of the elevatable support;

b) a drive cooperating with the stationary frame and adapted for connection with the movable frame, so that the drive may slidably move the movable frame onto and off of the elevatable support and the stationary frame; and

c) a lift action control mechanism mounted on the stationary frame cooperating with the elevatable support member to modulate movement of the elevatable support about the elevatable support axis while permitting the angle of the elevatable support to adapt so that the elevatable support slidingly engages the movable frame;

d) wherein:

the flexible connector is a chain and the drive comprises a sprocket that engages the chain; and

movement of the movable frame powered by the drive adapts the angle of the elevatable support so that the elevatable support slidably engages the movable frame; and

D₃ there is an interconnection between the elevatable support and the moveable frame, during sliding movement of the movable frame, so that the movable frame adapts the angle of the elevatable support through the interconnection.

33. (Amended) The loading apparatus of any one of claims 18 through 20, for mounting the movable frame on the stationary frame comprising:

D₄ a) an elevatable support member mounted on the stationary frame, the elevatable support member having a first end portion and a second end portion, the second end portion of the elevatable support being mounted to the stationary frame for pivotal movement with respect to the stationary frame about an elevatable support axis to provide an adjustable angle of the elevatable support;

b) a drive cooperating with the stationary frame and adapted for connection with the movable frame, so that the drive may slidably move the movable frame onto and off of the elevatable support and the stationary frame; and,

c) a lift action control mechanism mounted on the stationary frame cooperating with the elevatable support member to modulate movement of the elevatable support about the elevatable support axis while permitting the angle of the

elevatable support to adapt so that the elevatable support slidingly engages the movable frame;

d) wherein:

the flexible connector is a chain and the drive comprises a sprocket that engages the chain;

movement of the movable frame powered by the drive adapts the angle of the elevatable support so that the elevatable support slidingly engages the movable frame; and

the lift action control mechanism is powered to control the movement of first end portion of the elevatable support member towards a raised position and to control movement of the first end portion of the elevatable support towards a lowered position.

35. (Amended) The loading apparatus of any one of claims 18 through 20, for mounting the movable frame on the stationary frame comprising:

a) an elevatable support member mounted on the stationary frame, the elevatable support member having a first end portion and a second end portion, the second end portion of the elevatable support being mounted to the stationary frame for pivotal movement with respect to the stationary frame about an elevatable support axis to provide an adjustable angle of the elevatable support;

b) a drive cooperating with the stationary frame and adapted for connection with the movable frame, so that the drive may slidably move the movable frame onto and off of the elevatable support and the stationary frame; and,

c) a lift action control mechanism mounted on the stationary frame cooperating with the elevatable support member to modulate movement of the elevatable support about the elevatable support axis while permitting the angle of the elevatable support to adapt so that the elevatable support slidingly engages the movable frame;

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d) wherein:

the flexible connector is a chain and the drive comprises a sprocket that engages the chain; and

movement of the movable frame powered by the drive adapts the angle of the elevatable support so that the elevatable support slidingly engages the movable frame;

there is an interconnection between the elevatable support and the moveable frame, during sliding movement of the movable frame, so that the movable frame adapts the angle of the elevatable support through the interconnection; and

the lift action control mechanism is powered to control the movement of first end portion of the elevatable support member towards a raised position and to control movement of the first end portion of the elevatable support towards a lowered position.